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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland ONI review(s) completed.

REPORT

SUBJECT Port Conditions/Disposition of Soviet Naval
 Vessels

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

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CD NO.

ORR NO.

DAS NO.

OC 1 NO.

DATE DISTR. 28 May 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO

REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Gdynia

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25X1 treatment similar to that in all Satellite ports, in other words, close super-
25X1 vision over all movements. Although provisions for ships were available at prices
25X1 equivalent to what we would pay [] we never took on any there. On our
25X1 [] visit [] four large Soviet merchant ships taking on cargoes
25X1 of meat and coal, and was told that Soviet ships always arrive at Gdynia empty
25X1 and are systematically bleeding Poland of its produce and resources. []
25X1 [] the older Polish people want war between the USSR and the west to
25X1 start now, because they believe that such a conflict would result in an improve-
25X1 ment of Poland's present unhappy position. Consumer goods are scarce and extremely
costly. For example, shoes when obtainable, cost the equivalent of the average
worker's monthly salary.

2. Gdansk

25X1 We visited this port [redacted] and on the latter occasion I observed two submarines which were apparently based at Gdansk. Although I could not identify them as to class, I think I can definitely say that they were not of the snorkel type. These submarines departed Gdansk for periods of approximately three days, and from what I could learn they were Polish manned and engaged in some sort of maneuvers. When in port the two submarines were berthed at (A) and (B) 25X1

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on reference chart. At point (C) on the chart there was a naval facility at which there were gun emplacements for what I thought were small caliber anti-aircraft guns.

3. Stettin

25X1 Visiting this port [] we used British Admiralty Chart No. 185 in entering and leaving port and noted no discrepancies with regard to navigational aid or hydrographic information between the chart and existing conditions. [] 25X1

25X1 [] a number of submarines lying outside the entrance to Stettin from Swine-munde Reede and as many as 50 or 60 small naval craft lying inside the entrances for a distance of several miles. These craft appeared to be old and could be classified as subchasers, patrol craft, mincraft torpedo boats and miscellaneous small craft. When entering port these craft were on the port side of the ship, and I had noted on previous visits that they were never on the starboard side. While in Stettin I observed more Soviet soldiers than in any other Satellite port, and assumed a large military post must be situated nearby. In addition, all influential positions in the city, both military and civilian, seemed to be held by Soviets. Soviet control over the population appeared to be strong, and probably for this reason local people were largely unfriendly toward visiting seamen.

4. Because of the frequency of my visits to Soviet and Satellite ports and the similarity of the routine and treatment accorded Danish merchant ships in each of them, I have no observations of particular importance to make. As a result of these voyages, however, and from what I observed and heard during my visits to these ports I can give the following general information concerning the disposition of Soviet naval vessels. All Soviet vessels of all types located in the Baltic Sea are based at four ports: Ventspils, Libau, Memel and Konigsberg (Kaliningrad). No merchant vessels are allowed within the limits of these ports, which []

25X1 [] have been marked in pencil and labeled "Danger Areas".

25X1 Also, there are many Soviet submarines based at Tallin, Estonia.

-end-

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